



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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December 2, 2020

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of December 21-December 25, 2020

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Friday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **December 21-December 25** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted on Monday Dec. 21, Tuesday Dec. 22, by noon on Wednesday Dec. 23.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 21, Tuesday Dec. 22, Wednesday, Dec. 23, and by noon on Thursday Dec 24.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted by noon Monday Dec. 21.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 21, Tuesday Dec. 22, by noon on Wednesday Dec. 23, however meat samples are pooled for efficiency, generally once a week.
- Slaughter sponge samples are good for 24 hours per USDA. Sponges will be accepted Monday Dec. 21, Tuesday Dec. 22, by noon on Wednesday Dec. 23, unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 21 – Thursday Dec. 24, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency.
- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month, as usual, and is already scheduled next for the week of Jan. 11th.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research testing is scheduled minimum once a month and is already scheduled next for the week of Jan. 19th.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, January 4, 2021 following the New Year's holiday.

Assistance is available with timing of sample collections, completion of submission forms, packaging, temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. Sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications, can be made to DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patryce D. McKinney".

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory